

IN THE CLAIMS

1 (Cancelled)

d | 2 (Currently Amended). ~~The~~ An isolated protein which is capable of binding to tumor necrosis factor receptor-associated 2 protein (TRAF2), said protein consisting of:

(A) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3;

(B) a variant having an amino acid sequence that is at least 85% identical with SEQ ID NO:3; or

(C) a fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or of said variant (B),

wherein said protein, variant or fragment is each capable of binding to TRAF2.

3 (Original). The isolated protein of claim 2, which is a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

4 (Currently Amended). The isolated protein of claim 2, which is a fragment of ~~said protein comprising the~~ amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

5-19 (Cancelled)

20 (Previously Amended). A composition comprising the isolated protein of claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent, or auxiliary agent.

21 (Previously Amended). A molecule having the binding portion of an antibody capable of binding to the isolated protein of claim 2.

22 (Original). The molecule of claim 21, which is an antibody.

23 (Original). The molecule of claim 22, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

D 24 (Previously Amended). A composition comprising the molecule of claim 21, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent, or auxiliary agent.

25-37 (Cancelled)

38 (Previously Added). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, wherein said protein, variant or fragment is each capable of binding to a component of the NF- $\kappa$ B complex selected from the group consisting of IKAP, IKK-alpha, IKK-beta, IKK-gamma and NIK.

39 (Previously Added). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, wherein said variant of (B) has an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical with SEQ ID NO:3.

40 (Previously Added). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, wherein said variant of (B) has an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical with SEQ ID NO:3.

41 (Previously Added). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, consisting of a variant of the protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, which variant has an amino acid sequence that is at least 85% identical with SEQ ID NO:3.

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42 (Previously Added). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, consisting of a variant of the protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, which variant has an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical with SEQ ID NO:3.

43 (Previously Added). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, consisting of a variant of the protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, which variant has an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical with SEQ ID NO:3.

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*C<sup>3</sup>*  
44 (New). A molecule having the binding portion of an antibody capable of binding to the isolated protein of claim 3.

45 (New). The molecule of claim 44, which is an antibody.

46 (New). The molecule of claim 45, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

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